

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

5       a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances; and

          a housing that functions as a layout tool, said layout tool selected from a group consisting of a straight edge, a gauging block, a ruler, or a combination thereof.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, a nineteen and two-tenths-inch  
15 circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further functions as a gauging block.

20       4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

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6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

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7. An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances; and

15 a housing comprising edges dimensioned and configured to correspond to the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said wheel  
20 comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, an nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

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10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

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11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

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12. A method for measuring distances, said method comprising the step of:

obtaining an apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances, and a housing that functions as a straight edge.

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13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of placing said wheel on a starting point on a surface requiring measurement, and rolling said wheel over the surface.

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14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of determining the distance traveled by said wheel from the starting point, wherein the distance is ascertained by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

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15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of marking the surface at selected intervals indicated by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

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16. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of utilizing said housing to measure the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing.

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